



National Justice Reinvestment Program Round 3 Grant Opportunity Guidelines

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Closing date and time:	9:00 pm AEDT on 13 January 2025
Commonwealth policy entity:	Attorney-General's Department
Administering entity:	Community Grants Hub
Enquiries:	<p>If you have any questions, contact Community Grants Hub Phone: 1800 020 283 (option 1) Email: support@communitygrants.gov.au Questions should be sent no later than 5:00 pm AEDT on 6 January 2025.</p>
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1 National Justice Reinvestment Program: processes

The National Justice Reinvestment Program is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives

This grant opportunity is available under the National Justice Reinvestment Program. These guidelines were developed by a Grant Opportunity Guidelines Working Group which included representatives of the Coalition of Peaks and justice reinvestment experts.



The grant opportunity opens

We publish the Grant Opportunity Guidelines on [GrantConnect](https://help.grants.gov.au/)¹.



You complete and submit a grant application

You complete the application form and address all of the eligibility and assessment criteria to be considered for a grant.



We assess all grant applications

The Attorney-General's Department and the Community Grants Hub will review your application against the eligibility criteria and notify you if you are not eligible. A Justice Reinvestment Assessment Panel (Assessment Panel) will then assess eligible applications against the assessment criteria.



We make grant recommendations

The Assessment Panel provides advice to the decision maker on the merits of each application.



Grant decisions are made

The decision maker (the Attorney-General) decides which applications are successful.



We notify you of the outcome

We advise you of the outcome of your application. We may not notify unsuccessful applicants until grant agreements have been executed with successful applicants.



We enter into a grant agreement

If successful, we enter into a tailored grant agreement with you. We work together with you – in partnership – in support of a shared local agenda, strategy and plan of action.



Delivery of grant

You undertake the grant activity as set out in your grant agreement.



Evaluation of the National Justice Reinvestment Program

We evaluate your specific grant activity and also the **National Justice Reinvestment Program** as a whole. We base this on information you provide us and that we collect from various sources.

¹ <https://help.grants.gov.au/>

1.1 Introduction

These guidelines contain information about the National Justice Reinvestment Program (\$69 million over 3 years from 2023–24, \$20 million ongoing from 2026–27).

In line with the Priority Reforms of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (National Agreement), the Australian Government is committed to embedding shared decision-making in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs to improve life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and in the ongoing implementation of the National Justice Reinvestment Program.

These guidelines were developed through an extensive design process undertaken between March and May 2023, with 44 consultations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, state/territory representatives, philanthropic organisations, peak bodies and justice reinvestment experts. A multi-disciplinary Working Group, comprised of representatives from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak bodies, justice reinvestment experts, state/territory representatives and Commonwealth government came together in June and July 2023 to co-design these guidelines based on the feedback from community and contained in the Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research's [Design of the National Justice Reinvestment Program Report](#).²

The government wishes to acknowledge the generosity of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have played a role in informing these guidelines to date. They have generously shared their stories, perspectives and ideas informed by their culture, history, knowledge and experience.

The guidelines, from the first round that was developed by the Working Group, have continued to be updated and developed for future grant opportunities under the same program, in ongoing partnership with stakeholders including state and territory government, philanthropic organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The guidelines are in accordance with the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles](#)³ (CGRPs).

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant program/grant opportunity
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how grant applications are considered and selected
- how grantees are notified and receive grant payments
- how grantees will be monitored and evaluated
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

This grant opportunity and process will be administered by the Community Grants Hub on behalf of the Attorney-General's Department (the department).

2 About the grant program

Justice reinvestment aims to prevent and reduce Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' contact with the justice system in a particular place or community. It enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and leaders to come together to identify local solutions to local issues, using strengths of community, cultural knowledge and stories to measure progress over time. It

² <https://www.ag.gov.au/legal-system/publications/design-national-justice-reinvestment-program-june-2023>

³ <https://www.finance.gov.au/government/commonwealth-grants/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-principles-2024>

offers a way for communities to drive local solutions through improved collaboration and partnership with governments and service providers.

The Australian Government is committed to working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities to improve the justice outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, in line with the National Agreement's targets and Priority Reforms.

The National Justice Reinvestment Program draws upon the strength and knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. It is a place-based initiative which means in your application you must demonstrate how you will centre your work on the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in your community.

The National Justice Reinvestment Program is designed to support the development and delivery of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-led justice reinvestment initiatives across Australia. This includes supporting:

- the development, implementation, and evaluation of local justice reinvestment strategies and activities
- local project teams and leadership structures to undertake the work of developing, implementing and evaluating justice reinvestment strategies.
- The government recognises that applicants will be at different stages of their justice reinvestment journey. Applicants may wish to apply for grant funding for different types of activities which may look like:
 - communities, organisations and local project teams at an early stage of their justice reinvestment work applying for an initial grant to support collaboration and the development of a community strategy.
 - communities at a more established stage in their justice reinvestment journey applying for funds to support the delivery of future activities to achieve specific outcomes.

The Community Grants Hub administers the program according to [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles](#)⁴ (CGRPs).

2.1 About the National Justice Reinvestment grant opportunity

Justice Reinvestment projects funded by the National Justice Reinvestment Program will:

- aim to reduce **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** contact with the justice system
- be an **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** and community-led project
- take a collaborative approach, and consider a systems focus
- take a place-based approach
- be informed by community knowledge and other data.

The intended outcomes of this grant opportunity are:

- Improving justice outcomes and reducing contact with the criminal justice system and incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and young people, in line with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Targets 10 and 11.
- Contributing to systemic reform of government systems that intersect with the justice system.

⁴ <https://www.finance.gov.au/government/commonwealth-grants/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-principles-2024>

- Contributing to building a strong and sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector delivering high quality services to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the country.

Funding for the National Justice Reinvestment Program

In the 2022–23 Budget, the Government committed \$81.5 million over 4 years (from 2022–23) for justice reinvestment, including:

- \$69 million for up to 30 community-led justice reinvestment initiatives across Australia, and
- \$12.5 million to establish an independent National Justice Reinvestment Unit (the Unit) to coordinate and support justice reinvestment initiatives at a national level.

There is ongoing funding of \$20 million per year from 2026–27.

The table below provides a breakdown of funding for the National Justice Reinvestment Program:

Financial year	Allocation of funds
2022–23	\$3.5 million
2023–24	\$25.5 million
2024–25	\$20.0 million
2025–26	\$20.0 million
Total	\$69 million

The National Agreement on Closing the Gap

The National Agreement commits all governments to a new way of working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The National Agreement is historic – the first agreement to be negotiated with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians as represented by the Coalition of Peaks. More information about the National Agreement on Closing the Gap is available on the [Closing the Gap website](https://www.closingthegap.gov.au/national-agreement)⁵.

The National Agreement centres on 4 key Priority Reforms to transform the way Australian governments work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including partnership and shared decision making between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and governments, and building better data and sharing access to the right data to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make informed decisions with governments. Implementing the National Agreement is an unprecedented shift in the way governments work, by encompassing shared decision-making on the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs to improve life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

⁵ <https://www.closingthegap.gov.au/national-agreement>

The Priority Reforms are:

1. Partnership and shared decision making between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and governments
2. Building the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled service sector in agreed outcome areas
3. Transforming mainstream government services to work better for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
4. Building better data and sharing access to the right data to support Indigenous communities to make informed decisions with government.

The National Agreement also establishes 19 national socio-economic targets to monitor Australia's progress to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including reducing the overrepresentation of adults and young people in the justice system. The justice targets are:

- by 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults held in incarceration by at least 15% (Target 10) and
- by 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (10 to 17 years) in detention by 30% (Target 11).

These Priority Reforms and targets are central to the Australian Government's commitment to justice reinvestment, which will prioritise partnership, and support informed and shared decision making at a local level to address the over incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and children.

In August 2021 the Justice Policy Partnership (the JPP) was established as the first of 5 policy partnerships to be established under Priority Reform One to lead a nationally joined-up approach to transform justice systems through genuine partnerships between all levels of government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities. The JPP Strategic Framework directs the JPP to deliver a strategic initiative to ensure Justice Reinvestment is aligned with Closing the Gap and that community-controlled organisations are key partners in the process.

Justice reinvestment

While justice reinvestment is an evolving practice across Australia and internationally, for the purposes of the Program, justice reinvestment is defined by the following 4 key elements:

5. **Justice reinvestment aims to reduce Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people coming into contact with the justice system.** In working towards this goal, other social and economic outcomes may also be achieved. Justice reinvestment is sometimes referred to a 'life course' and early intervention and prevention approach, often with a focus on children and young people in order to have the largest positive impact on justice outcomes.
6. **Justice reinvestment must be led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people united by a connection to place.** Leadership in this context involves Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' united connection to place, implementing ideas as decided by the community, and expressing self-determination in different ways. Leadership can include formal or informal, well-established or emerging community leadership structures or groups.
7. **Justice reinvestment has a systems focus.** This means identifying and addressing a range of issues that contribute to contact with the justice system (including access to housing, health, employment). This is done through a holistic lens with a focus on preventative measures and reforming government systems. This approach requires collaboration and partnerships with multiple stakeholders.

8. **Justice reinvestment is informed by data and evidence.** Whereby government and/or community data and knowledge is used to set priorities and measure progress. Data and place must be defined by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including with reference to data sovereignty and governance principles.

Successful Justice Reinvestment initiatives will demonstrate these elements.

3 Grant amount and grant period

3.1 Grants available

Current Grant Opportunity – Round 3

This grant opportunity will run from 26 September 2024 through to 13 January 2025.

The funding breakdown for Round 3 is as follows:

Financial year	Amount available for funding agreements in Round 3
2024–25	\$1 million
2025–26	\$5.68 million
2026–27	\$10 million
Total	\$16.68 million

There is no minimum or maximum amount available per grant, however grants cannot exceed the funds available in each financial year.

Any funds not allocated in a financial year will be made available in future financial years.

3.2 Grant period

While the funding for the National Justice Reinvestment Program is ongoing, applicants are only able to apply for a maximum grant period of 3 years (from 2024–25, 2025–26 and 2026–27) for this grant opportunity.

4 Eligibility criteria

This section outlines who is eligible to apply for a grant under the National Justice Reinvestment Program.

The decision maker can choose to waive the eligibility criteria, however they must be made aware of the risks. The waiver may be used to ensure that applicants are not excluded solely on the basis of entity type, particularly if there are applicants that may otherwise be considered suitable. Clear evidence will be provided to the delegate to enable a decision on whether eligibility criteria should be waived.

4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

To be eligible, you must be one of the following entity types:

- Company
- Cooperative
- Corporate Commonwealth Entity
- Corporate State or Territory Entity

- Incorporated Association
- Indigenous Corporation
- Local Government
- Non-corporate Commonwealth Statutory Authority
- Non-corporate State or Territory Entity
- Non-corporate State or Territory Statutory Authority
- Partnership
- Statutory Entity
- Unincorporated Association.

All entities are eligible to apply except those listed in 4.2 below.

The National Justice Reinvestment Program draws upon the strength and knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Non-Indigenous organisations **can** apply, however, programs that are eligible must demonstrate how the work is place-based, meaning how it will centre on the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait people living in your community, including by demonstrating you have support and authority to lead or act as the coordinating body for this work within a community, and that the work will be delivered in partnership with community members.

Community-led First Nations initiatives across Australian states and territories may apply for funding through the National Justice Reinvestment Program.

If you are applying as a Trustee on behalf of a Trust⁶, the Trustee must be one of the eligible entity type as listed above.

Further information on entity types is available on the [Community Grants Hub webpage](#)⁷.

Other sources of funding

You are able to apply for funding under the Program even if you receive funding from someone else to deliver the same justice reinvestment activity. However, if 100% of your costs are already funded by someone else then you will not be eligible.

For example, if your justice reinvestment activity costs \$500,000 and you currently receive \$200,000 in funding from a state government, you **can** apply for the remaining \$300,000 under the Program. If your activity costs \$500,000 and you already receive the entire \$500,000 in funding from a state government, then you will **not** be eligible for funding.

Other sources of funding should be declared in the application form.

Consortium applications

Applications from consortia are acceptable, as long as you have a lead applicant who is solely accountable to the Commonwealth for the delivery of grant activities and is an eligible entity as per the list above. Eligible organisations can form a consortium with ineligible organisations.

⁶ Trusts are not legal entities in their own right. To be eligible, only the Trustee for the Trust can apply by providing the signed Trust Deed and any subsequent variations with the application form. Trustees must be an eligible entity type listed in section 4.1. Both the Trust's and Trustee's details will be collected in the application form.

⁷ <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/information/information-applicants/legal-entity-status>

4.2 Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

You are not eligible to apply if you are a/an:

- International Entity
- Non-corporate Commonwealth Entity
- Person
- Sole Trader
- organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, that is included on the [National Redress Scheme's website](https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/)⁸ on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'
- organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, that is included on the [Workplace Gender Equality Agency website](https://www.wgea.gov.au/)⁹ on the non-compliant list.

4.2.1 Unincorporated Associations

Non-legal entities such as an Unincorporated Association may be able to receive funding where a legal parent organisation, or a legal entity connected to the Unincorporated Association can enter into a legally binding agreement on its behalf.

4.3 What qualifications, skills or checks are required?

The department recognises the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework. If you are successful in receiving grant funding, you will be asked to comply with all Australian laws relating to employing or engaging people who work or volunteer with children or vulnerable people. If successful, these details will be outlined in the grant agreement. This may include:

- Working with Vulnerable People registration – required for those staff who will be working directly with vulnerable people
- Working with Children check – required for those staff who will be working directly with children, or
- a similar accreditation, if required, and as agreed between the parties.

5 What the grant money can be used for

5.1 Eligible grant activities

The National Justice Reinvestment Program supports activities that seek to improve justice outcomes that relate to the needs of a particular community and have strong local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community leadership.

These will be unique to each local context, and include a range of activities involved in setting up, running and evaluating community designed, based and led justice reinvestment activities or programs.

Some examples of eligible activities and programs may include (this is not a complete list):

- activities associated with community-led identification and implementation of justice reinvestment activities, including creating and maintaining a local project team or 'backbone'

⁸ <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/>

⁹ <https://www.wgea.gov.au/>

team, systems and frameworks to support local leadership, governance and community engagement, and justice reinvestment plans and strategies

- programs that are targeted at addressing possible drivers of contact with the criminal justice systems and improving justice outcomes
 - For example, improving school attendance, improving local and regional employment opportunities, building connections to culture and community, addressing community and family safety, empowering young people, supporting sustainable leadership, or improving health outcomes.
- Supporting activities that may be eligible include:
 - activities that build support for and understanding about justice reinvestment within a community, including communications products, community engagement sessions and learning/education activities to build capacity and capability for justice reinvestment
 - activities related to data, including collecting and working with community data, stories and knowledge, setting up local data platforms and working with government data
 - activities to develop and implement monitoring, evaluation and learning to ensure community-led projects and programs contribute to the program's outcomes and objectives
 - activities associated with collaboration and working with stakeholders to advocate for changes to justice systems.

5.2 Eligible expenditure

The grant may only be spent on expenses that are approved and related to the activities agreed upon.

Eligible expenditure items may include:

- costs associated with delivering any of the eligible activities outlined in section 5.1, including costs associated with building the capacity of the community or organisation to deliver Justice Reinvestment
- costs associated with resourcing a local project team, and the tools to support local leadership, including:
 - wages for a small project team
 - staff training, transport, and accommodation
 - operating expenses such as office fit-out, rent, lease of computers, phones, administration
 - IT costs (including costs associated with data collection, storage and maintenance)
 - travel and accommodation costs for domestic travel for the purpose of stakeholder and community engagement activities directly related to the delivery of grant activities
 - professional development

- minor capital works directly relating to the proposed project or activity (improvements or maintenance of existing buildings), providing:
 - the work has a total cost of under \$250,000
 - noting that consideration may be given to increase this total for projects located in rural and remote areas
 - the work is completed within 12 months, unless otherwise agreed
 - noting that more time may be allowed for rural and remote areas
 - any work completed is within an existing structure
 - applicants can provide at the point of agreement the following:
 - a quote with itemised costs of work to be undertaken, if greater than \$100,000
 - the scope of the works
 - if council approval is required
 - timeframe for works
 - proof of ownership/property owner consent to undertake works (including proof of the amount of time left on the lease)
- costs associated with consultancies, services, and support from justice reinvestment experts
- other administrative or project related costs (that is, relating to data work, communications, community engagement and learning and development) as identified by the community and agreed with the department.

If successful, a final budget will be developed in partnership between parties and will form part of the grant.

Please note:

We may update the guidelines on eligible and ineligible expenditure from time to time. If your application is successful, the version in place when you submitted your application applies to your project.

If your application is successful, we may ask you to verify project costs that you provided in your application. You may need to provide evidence such as quotes for major costs.

Not all expenditure on your project may be eligible for grant funding. The decision maker makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure.

You must incur the expenditure on your project between the start date and end or completion date for your grant agreement for it to be eligible.

5.3 What the grant money cannot be used for

You cannot use the grant for the following activities, unless otherwise agreed with both the Justice Reinvestment Assessment Panel (Assessment Panel) and department:

- costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation
- costs that have already been paid for from other sources
- minor capital expenditure over \$250,000
 - noting that consideration may be given to increase this total for projects located in rural and remote areas

- moderate and major capital expenditure and construction
 - this includes expenditure involving complex and or high/risk refurbishments, or new building construction
- overseas travel
- the covering of retrospective costs.

Please note: This is not a complete list and the decision maker may choose not to fund other activities based on the recommendations of the Assessment Panel.

6 The assessment criteria

Please address the assessment criteria below in your application.

As an open non-competitive grants program, applications will be assessed individually against the assessment criteria and not compared to the merits of other applications.

All the assessment criteria are equally weighted.

The application form includes character limits – up to 6000 characters (approximately 900 words) per criterion.

The wording in **bold** is the primary question to answer, with the following points a guide on the types of information that will assist the Panel in assessing your response.

A guide to how criteria will be rated can be found at **Appendix A**.

Note: Applicants must provide a proposed **Project Budget** and a proposed Plan of activities as an attachment to the application (see further details at section 7.1).

Criterion 1 - Why do you think Justice Reinvestment is a good fit for your community?

Tell us about some of the justice challenges in your community impacting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and/or youth and the need for change. In your application:

- describe some of the factors driving contact with the justice system by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and/or youth in your community
- provide examples of how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members are coming together to gather information, and build support for community-led change to improve justice outcomes
- describe the primary areas where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members are looking to lead and drive solutions, centred in local culture, knowledge and voices.

Criterion 2 - What will you do with Justice Reinvestment funding if successful?

Describe your proposed project, plan or strategy and how it will prevent and reduce contact with the justice system among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and/or youth in your area. In your application:

- describe how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members have been involved in leading its design
- describe the specific actions you would like to pursue to help prevent and reduce contact with the justice system among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and/or youth living in your community
- describe how your project, plan or strategy will continue to be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led and centred around a shared connection to place

- describe whether you plan to collaborate with relevant services, stakeholders or organisations to achieve your projects aims. If so, who and why?

Criterion 3 - How will you do it?

Describe how your organisation will deliver the project, including providing information on:

- who will run the day to day operation of the project (for example, staff, budgets) and how will major decisions be made (for example, decision-making structure) over time
 - including thorough activity work plans or draft budgets, where appropriate
- how will you measure and evaluate progress over the course of the project (what data will you use, and what does success look like in your local context)
- if your organisation will seek financial, in-kind or logistical support from other organisations to maximise impact or strengthen the financial sustainability of the project over the long term (for example, non-government-organisations, philanthropic funders, service providers, local/state/territory governments).

6.1 Applications that will be viewed as a strength

Priority Reform 2 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap aims to build a strong and sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector delivering high quality services to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the country.

In line with the government's commitment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, and consistent with Priority Reform 2, applications from the following organisations will be viewed as a strength in their assessment:

- an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled organisation (ACCO)
- an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Operated and Controlled organisation (AOCO)
- other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations that demonstrate a plan to become an ACCO in the future
- a non-Indigenous organisations that demonstrates:
 - a plan to become an ACCO in the future or
 - to transition the activities to an ACCO in the future.

Definition:

Organisation	Definition
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled organisation	These are organisations that are incorporated, not for profit, at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned and at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled (Board members or equivalent).
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Operated and Controlled organisation	These are organisations that are at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned and at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled (Board members or equivalent).
Other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation	These are organisations that are at least 50% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned OR at least 50% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled (Board members or equivalent).

7 How to apply

Before applying, please read these Grant Opportunity Guidelines alongside other supporting documents such as the Questions and Answers and Fact Sheet.

These documents are found on the [GrantConnect](#)¹⁰ website. Any changes to grant documentation and addenda¹¹ will be published on GrantConnect. By registering on this website, you will be automatically notified of any changes. GrantConnect is the authoritative source for grants information.

An example of Commonwealth grant agreement terms and conditions are available of the [Department of Finance](#) website¹².

Please note: You can only submit one application form for this grant opportunity, regardless of whether you are applying in your own right or as the lead member of a consortium. If more than one application is submitted, only the latest accepted application form will be considered.

To apply, you will need to:

- complete the online application form on [GrantConnect](#)¹³
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility and assessment criteria
- include all necessary attachments (Budget and Proposed Plan of Activities are mandatory for all applications, a Transition Plan is mandatory for non-Indigenous organisations)
- submit your application to the Community Grants Hub by 9:00 pm AEDT on 13 January 2025.

We will not provide application forms or accept applications for this grant opportunity by fax or mail.

¹⁰ <https://help.grants.gov.au/>

¹¹ Addenda can include changes to existing grant opportunity documentation and/or publishing additional documents. Changes include but are not limited to corrections to currently published documents, changes to close times for applications and system outage notices.

¹² <https://www.finance.gov.au/government/commonwealth-grants/tools-and-templates#types-of-agreements-and-their-templates>

You are responsible for making sure your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the [Criminal Code Act 1995](#)¹³ and we will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration.

If you need more help about the application process, submitting an application online, have any technical difficulties or find an error in your application after submission, but before the closing date and time, you should contact the Community Grants Hub immediately on 1800 020 283 (option 1) or email support@communitygrants.gov.au. The Community Grants Hub does not have to accept any additional information, or requests from you to correct your application after the closing time.

You cannot change your application after the closing date and time.

If we find an error or something missing, we may ask you for clarification or additional information. This will not change the nature of your application. However, we can refuse to accept any additional information from you that would change your application after the closing time.

You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents.

You will receive an automated notification acknowledging the receipt of your application.

7.1 Joint (Consortia) applications

Where organisations have joined together as a consortium to deliver a justice reinvestment initiative, a 'lead organisation' must be appointed. The lead organisation is required to satisfy all the eligibility criteria as outlined in section 4.1. Only the lead organisation can submit the application form and enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth. You will be asked to identify all other members of the consortium in the application.

Organisations will **not be** eligible to be members of a consortium arrangement if they are included on the:

- [National Redress Scheme's website](#)¹⁴ on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'
- [Workplace Gender Equality Agency website](#)¹⁵ on the non-compliant list.

Eligible organisations can form consortia with ineligible organisations

7.2 Timing of grant opportunity processes

You must submit an application between the published opening and closing dates.

Late applications

Late applications will not be accepted. For this grant opportunity, applications can be submitted from 26 September 2024 through to 13 January 2025.

Expected timing for this grant opportunity

If successful, funding for your justice reinvestment initiative will be available from June 2025.

¹³ http://www8.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/cth/consol_act/cca1995115/sch1.html

¹⁴ <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/>

¹⁵ <https://www.wgea.gov.au/>

Table 1: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Timeframe
Assessment of applications	Within 10 weeks from the closing date
Approval of outcomes of selection process	Within 13 weeks from the closing date
Notification to applicants	Within 15 weeks from the closing date
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	Within 20 weeks from the closing date
Earliest start date of grant activity	June 2025
End date of grant activity	30 June 2027

7.3 Attachments to the application

All applicants **must** attach the following information to their application. If this information is not provided, the application will not progress to assessment:

- a plan of the activities to be undertaken by your project, and
- a proposed draft budget.

Templates can be found in the grant opportunity documents, but use of these templates is not mandatory (some applicants may prefer to use a pre-existing budget template).

Non-Indigenous organisations, including consortium applications where a non-Indigenous organisation is the lead organisation in the application, **must** provide:

- letter/s of buy-in¹⁶ from relevant community cultural authority/governance/leadership structures, and agreement of appointment as the lead organisation, AND
- evidence of a plan to transition to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO), OR
- evidence of a plan to transition the work to an ACCO in the future or to maintain existing relationships with an ACCO into the future, OR
- evidence of a plan to work in partnership with an ACCO, and a letter of support from the ACCO to demonstrate they are supportive of the plan.

All applicants are encouraged to provide the following information:

- evidence of support/collaboration or indication of buy-in from community members/representatives and/or governance bodies, or
- evidence of support from non-community representatives/stakeholders, either in the form of official support or letters of group support – a letter of support does not need to demonstrate endorsement but rather agreement to collaborate or evidence that you are already working in collaboration

¹⁶ Buy-in means some evidence of community support that the project/activities proposed will benefit the community and reflect what the community wants.

- a plan to transition to an ACCO, if you are an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Operated and Controlled organisation or other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation planning to become community controlled in the future
- the Trust deed and any subsequent variations, if applying as a Trustee on behalf of a Trust.

Please note: There is a 2 MB limit for each attachment.

7.4 Questions during the application process

If you have any questions during the application period, you may wish to call the Community Grants Hub.

For technical questions about the guidelines and assessment process, please contact the Community Grants Hub on 1800 020 283 (option 1) or email support@communitygrants.gov.au.

The Community Grants Hub will respond to emailed questions within 5 working days. The Questions and Answers document will be updated to include answers to questions and addenda will be published on [GrantConnect](#)¹⁷.

The question period for this grant opportunity will close at **5:00 pm AEDT on 6 January 2025**. Following this time, only questions about using and/or submitting the application form will be answered.

8 The grant selection process

8.1 Assessment of grant applications

Applications will be assessed based on the eligibility and assessment criteria as set out in these Grant Opportunity Guidelines (see sections 4 and 6).

Each application will be considered on its individual merits. When assessing the application, the Assessment Panel may have regard to:

- the assessment criteria for the program (see section 6), including whether the elements of justice reinvestment have been incorporated into the initiative
- the amount of funding sought
- whether it provides value for relevant money
- whether the applicant is an ACCO, or an AOCO or other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation that can demonstrate a plan to become a community controlled organisation in the future
- the extent to which evidence contained in the application demonstrates the project will contribute to meeting its proposed outcomes/objectives.

The Assessment Panel may seek clarifying information from the applicant via the Justice Reinvestment Secretariat. This is not an opportunity to provide new information, but rather an opportunity to clarify information in your application via email, videoconference or teleconference.

¹⁷ <https://help.grants.gov.au/>

In assessing your responses to each of the criteria below, the Assessment Panel will rate the response as (refer to Appendix A for rating scale):

- fully meets the criterion
- partially meets the criterion
- does not meet the criterion.

Applicants must at least partially meet each of the criteria in order to be deemed suitable.

8.2 Financial viability

Applicants applying for \$100,000 or more will be asked in their application to provide financial data from the last 2 full years' profit and loss statements and balance sheets (where available) in order to determine the organisation's financial risk. Based on the risk level, applicants may then be subject to a more in-depth financial viability assessment. You may be requested to provide further information or documentation to support this assessment.

The financial viability assessment can include:

- assessing the financial health of your organisation
- establishing whether you or relevant persons in your organisation (as applicable) have any adverse business history (for example, current or past bankruptcy).

The outcome of the financial viability assessment will be considered when assessing and/or selecting applications.

8.3 Who will assess and select applications?

The assessment of applications involves:

1. Community Grants Hub personnel will conduct an initial eligibility and compliance check (confirming entity details, ABN and other mandatory information) on applications to determine if they are eligible and compliant.
2. Officers from the Attorney-General's Department will then undertake a quality assurance screening against the eligibility criteria to ensure the required information is available to the Assessment Panel.
3. Applications will then be assessed by the Assessment Panel. The Attorney-General's Department will provide secretariat support to the Assessment Panel.
4. The Assessment Panel will recommend applications to be funded to the decision maker to approve for a grant. The decision maker will be provided with information relating to all applications (not just those that are recommended).

8.4 The Justice Reinvestment Assessment Panel

In alignment with Priority Reform One [partnership and shared decision making] of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, the department will establish a multi-disciplinary Justice Reinvestment Assessment Panel (Assessment Panel).

Members will be drawn from a pool of eligible nominations and expressions of interest.

The Assessment Panel will consist of 6 or more members, a majority of which must be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and may include membership from the following categories:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership from a non-government agency
- a Coalition of Peaks member
- a representative from the National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Legal Services
- persons with specialist knowledge of justice reinvestment
- a representative from the Commonwealth
- a representative from either a state, territory and local government
- an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community member or leader
- a representative of a relevant philanthropic organisation
- a representative from the Central Australia region in the Northern Territory
- a standing member (from one of the above categories) to sit across all panels for consistency in recommendations (to mitigate the impact of panels comprised of different members due to availability and conflict issues).

Gender parity will be prioritised in convening the Assessment Panel.

An Assessment Panel Chair will be selected by members once the Assessment Panel is formed.

Probity measures and other protocol

To ensure a fair and transparent assessment process is undertaken, a probity advisor will advise the Assessment Panel. A Probity Plan will be developed to identify and mitigate any actual or perceived conflicts of interest or probity risks.

A strategy for any potential conflict of interest that could be identified between the Attorney-General's Department or external officials and applicants will be in place. If any actual or perceived conflict of interest is identified, the member is required to immediately disclose the conflict to the department and agree to abstain from any decisions. All persons involved in the assessment process will be required to complete a Conflict of Interest form.

All members (including those who are not Commonwealth officials) will be required/expected to perform their duties in accordance with the [CGRPs](#)¹⁸.

8.5 Who will approve grants?

The Attorney-General will be the decision maker for this grant opportunity. The decision maker decides which grants to approve based on the recommendations of the Assessment Panel, taking into consideration any further information that may become known, including the availability of grant funds for the purposes of the grant program.

The decision maker's decision is final in all matters, including the:

- approval of the grant
- grant funding amount to be awarded
- terms and conditions of the grant.

There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a grant.

¹⁸ <https://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-11/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-guidelines.pdf>

9 Notification of application outcomes

The Community Grants Hub will write to you about the outcome of your application.

9.1 Feedback on your application

A general feedback summary will be published on the Community Grants Hub website to provide all organisations with easy access to information about the grant selection process and the main strengths and areas for improving future applications.

Individual feedback will be provided to unsuccessful applicants, with guidance provided on behalf of the Assessment Panel, on how applicants can improve their proposal for future opportunities.

9.2 Further grant opportunities

The National Justice Reinvestment Program is an open, non-competitive program. In addition to the \$65.5 million¹⁹ investment available from 2023–24 to 2025–26, the Government has committed \$20 million per year ongoing from 2026–27 onwards. There will be consecutive rounds open annually, which means applications can be submitted year-round.

If you are unsuccessful in this round, you can submit a new application for the same grant (or a similar grant) in any future grant rounds under the program. If you choose to reapply, you may wish to include new information based on feedback provided by the department to strengthen your approach that may have prevented your previous application from being successful.

10 Successful grant applications

10.1 The grant agreement

If you are successful, you will be invited to enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

Each grant agreement will list the deliverables of your program/initiative, as well as general terms and conditions that cannot be changed. We will use 2 types of grant agreements for this grant opportunity – a Commonwealth Simple Grant Agreement or a Commonwealth Standard Grant Agreement. Our selection will depend on the associated risks, complexity of your project and level of contact with children and/or vulnerable people. Sample grant agreements are available on GrantConnect as part of the grant documentation.

You will need to negotiate and execute a grant agreement with the Commonwealth before we can make any payments ('execute' means both you and the Commonwealth have signed the agreement). During this time, we will work closely with you to finalise details. You may request minor changes to the variable components (for example, Activity details, deliverables) of the grant agreement during this process. We will review any changes to make sure they do not affect the grant as approved by the decision maker.

As part of the grant agreement officials from the Attorney-General's Department will work with you to develop an Activity Work Plan, which outlines the specific requirements for yourself and the Commonwealth in respect of the grant.

¹⁹ As Grant Opportunity Guidelines cannot reference funding from past financial years, these guidelines do not include \$3.5 million from 2022–23 that was committed to justice reinvestment initiatives.

The National Justice Reinvestment Program supports a new way of working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through shared decision making, which is a key priority under Closing the Gap.

The department commits to work with you in support of your shared local agenda, strategy and plan of action, as well as through the funding support provided by this grant. If appropriate, you may propose to develop a collaboration agreement with the department, supplementary to your grant agreement, to capture other in-kind partnership contributions and accountabilities.

10.2 Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012

The Australian Government has a commitment to effectively support cultural change in Australian workplaces and drive improved gender equality outcomes. Requirements have been implemented for fairer and more consistent measures to ensure the Government deals with organisations who comply with the *Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012* (the WGE Act).

Applicants may need to satisfy a requirement to be compliant with the WGE Act.

- Applicants with 100 or more employees who are registered with the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) and have been issued with a compliance letter are eligible to apply for a grant.
- Applicants with 100 or more employees who are **not** registered with WGEA will need to register to be issued with a compliance letter prior to applying for a grant.
- Applicants with less than 100 employees across their entire structure are not required to submit a report to WGEA; however, you are required to complete the registration form on the login page of the [WGEA Portal](#)²⁰. WGEA will use the details provided in the registration form to issue your organisation with a tender letter, which must be attained prior to applying for a grant.

For your grant application to be deemed compliant:

- your organisation must not be included on the WGEA website on the non-compliant list or
- you must be able to provide your compliance or tender letter to the Community Grants Hub when requested.

If you are unable to provide your compliance or tender letter and appear on the non-compliant list, you will be deemed non-compliant and withdrawn from the grant process.

More information regarding reporting requirements can be found at the [Workplace Gender Equality Agency website](#)²¹.

10.3 Commonwealth Child Safe Framework

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse highlighted the need for organisations to adopt child safe practices including appropriate screening of staff, mandatory reporting and adoption of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. The Australian Government committed to a new Commonwealth-wide framework to protect children and young people it is responsible for – the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework (CCSF).

The Australian Government has put in place ways to apply certain child safety requirements of the CCSF to grant recipients. A child safety clause will be included in a grant agreement where the Commonwealth considers the grant is for:

²⁰ <https://client-portal.wgea.gov.au/s/>

²¹ <https://www.wgea.gov.au/reporting-guide>

- services directly to children
- activities that involve contact with children that is a usual part of, and more than incidental to, the grant activity
- activities that involve possible contact with children that is irregular or unplanned.

The successful applicant will be required to comply with all child safety obligations included in the grant agreement prior to execution of the grant agreement. Irrespective of the child safety obligations in the grant agreement, you must always comply with state and territory legislative requirements for working with children and mandatory reporting.

10.4 How we pay the grant

The grant agreement will state the maximum grant amount to be paid. We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances. If you incur extra costs, you must meet them yourself.

We will make payments according to an agreed schedule set out in the grant agreement.

If your grant agreement is for multiple financial years, then any unspent funds each financial year will be rolled over to the next financial year (upon request by the grantee and subject to approval by the department). However, any unspent funds remaining at the end of the grant agreement must be returned to the department.

10.5 Grant payments and GST

If you are registered for the [Goods and Services Tax](#)²² (GST), where applicable, we will add GST to your grant payment and issue you with a [Recipient Created Tax Invoice](#)²³.

If a government related entity is deemed successful, GST will not apply.

The definition of a government related entity can be found on [the Australian Taxation Office website](#)²⁴.

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the [Australian Taxation Office](#)²⁵. We do not provide advice on your particular taxation circumstances.

11 Announcement of grants

If successful, your grant will be listed on the GrantConnect website 21 calendar days after the date of effect (when the grant agreement is signed by both parties) as required by section 5.3 of the [CGRPs](#)²⁶.

²² <https://www.ato.gov.au/businesses-and-organisations/gst-excise-and-indirect-taxes/gst/registering-for-gst>

²³ <https://www.ato.gov.au/forms-and-instructions/recipient-created-tax-invoices>

²⁴ <https://www.ato.gov.au/businesses-and-organisations/corporate-tax-measures-and-assurance/government-entities/gst-for-government/gst-and-payments-between-government-related-entities>

²⁵ <https://www.ato.gov.au/>

²⁶ <https://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-11/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-guidelines.pdf>

12 How we monitor your grant activity

12.1 Keeping us informed

Continuous monitoring, evaluation and learning, informed by data where available and appropriate, is a key element of justice reinvestment that will look different according to each community context.

Successful projects will prioritise community-led learning, evaluation and reporting as part of their proposed justice reinvestment project or activity (see section 6, assessment criterion 3), and will include related key deliverables in their draft Activity Work Plan (see below) and Budget.

Funding for evaluation activities can be included in grant applications and agreements, to support successful grantees to measure activity progress and success over time, and to share these learnings with community members and other organisations involved in the work.

In addition to resourcing community-led reporting and evaluation, the National Justice Reinvestment Program requires grantees to have systems in place to meet their reporting needs, which will be outlined in their grant agreement developed in partnership with the department.

12.2 Reporting

Ad hoc reporting requirements

We need to know of any changes to your organisation or its business activities, particularly if they affect your ability to complete your grant, carry on business and pay debts due.

You must also inform your Funding Arrangement Manager at the Community Grants Hub of any changes to your:

- name
- addresses
- nominated contact details
- bank account details.

The details of your Funding Arrangement Manager will be included in your grant agreement.

If you become aware of a breach of the terms and conditions under the grant agreement, you must contact us immediately.

Please notify us of events relating to your grant where you would be happy to invite the Minister or their representative to attend.

Annual reporting requirements

Grantees will be required to submit reports in line with the grant agreement.

The Community Grants Hub will provide sample templates for these reports. We will remind you of your reporting obligations before a report is due.

You will be asked to provide an Activity Work Plan at the start of your activity. Each year you will also be asked to provide a Financial Declaration report and an Activity Work Plan Report.

The amount of detail you provide in your reports should be relative to the size and complexity of the grant and the grant amount.

We may request to confirm details you have decided to share in your reports if necessary. Occasionally we may need to seek more information or request an independent audit of claims and payments.

Activity Work Plan

You will be required to submit a completed Activity Work Plan after execution of the grant agreement. Officials from the Attorney-General's Department will work closely with you to develop this plan.

An Activity Work Plan will be used to outline the specific grant requirements. The Activity Work Plan documents planned deliverables, milestones and outputs for the funded project as well as risk management and community engagement relevant to the funded project.

Successful applicants' progress and outcomes against the Activity Work Plan including any compliance requirements will be monitored throughout the grant through an annual Activity Work Plan Report.

Financial Declaration report

- Provides an end of financial year summary (refer to 12.3 Acquitting your grant)
- Details expenditure of the grant
- **Is due after each financial year by 31 July.**

Activity Work Plan report

- Provides evidence of progress against agreed grant activity milestones in the Activity Work Plan
- Details the total eligible expenditure incurred to date
- **Is due by 31 July each year of the grant.**

Annual Child Safe Statement of Compliance

You will be required to submit an annual Child Safety Statement of Compliance. This will be a statutory declaration on a form provided by the Hub affirming that that you are compliant with the Child Safe Supplementary Term in your grant agreement.

Indigenous Data Sovereignty

The Australian Government acknowledges the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to govern the collection, ownership and application of data about their communities, peoples, lands, and resources. Any data owned and provided by you before, during or after project delivery is yours. Ownership of data can be expressed through the creation, collection, access, analysis, interpretation, management, dissemination and reuse of Indigenous Data.

In keeping with Priority Reform 4 of the National Agreement, the Government will work with communities and state and territory governments to promote access to data to support justice reinvestment, as well as strengthening local capability in data collection, management and analysis.

Ensuring the voices, expertise and lived experience of Indigenous peoples are included in data processes is a key feature of community-led justice reinvestment. Justice reinvestment projects are driven by data and informed by community priorities and insights to identify and address the root causes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander contact with the justice system. Data is also an important tool to measure and evaluate progress and change. Developing local approaches to data

gathering and analysis, including principles of Indigenous Data Sovereignty and governance, are key aspects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led justice reinvestment in Australia.

Grantees will continue to be required to share some project-specific information (financial declaration reports and Activity Work Plan reports), in line with the grant agreement.

12.3 Acquitting your grant

Financial Declaration

We will ask you to provide an annual declaration of grant money, confirming it was spent in accordance with the grant agreement and to report on any underspends of the grant money.

Any unspent funds at the end of the agreement must be returned to the department.

12.4 Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect the progress of your project. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your grant agreement. You can request a variation by contacting your Funding Arrangement Manager at the Community Grants Hub. We will consider your request based on provisions in the grant agreement and the likely impact on achieving outcomes.

12.5 Compliance visits

We may visit you during or at the completion of your grant activity to review your compliance with the grant agreement. We will provide you with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

We may request to meet virtually or visit you during, or at the completion of, your grant activity to review your compliance with the grant agreement. We will seek your permission to visit, in accordance with local protocols, and provide you with reasonable notice of any visit.

12.6 Record keeping

We may also inspect the records you are required to keep under the grant agreement.

12.7 Evaluation

The department will engage an external, independent evaluator to work with all grant recipients to undertake a mid-term evaluation of the National Justice Reinvestment Program.

The department may seek your permission to use information from your application and progress reports for the purpose of completing this mid-term evaluation.

The department may also ask you for more information to help us understand how the grant is contributing to positive changes within your community in relation to reducing contact with the justice system among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults or young people. This will enable us to understand local improvements supported by the program and evaluate how these local improvements are contributing to broader, whole-of-program outcomes at the national level.

The department may contact you up to one year after you finish your grant for more information to assist with this evaluation.

These guidelines will also be regularly evaluated over the life of the National Justice Reinvestment Program and may be changed by the Attorney-General's Department based on user-feedback from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the Coalition of Peaks, or other stakeholder groups

over time. When this happens, the revised guidelines will be published on the [GrantConnect](#)²⁷ website.

To ensure the National Justice Reinvestment Program and related policies are delivered in accordance with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap through a genuine partnership approach between the Commonwealth Government and community-controlled sector, the department and the relevant Coalition of Peaks member (National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services) will jointly monitor and review the impact and effectiveness of the program to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are benefitting as intended.

12.8 Acknowledgement

If you make a public statement about a grant activity funded under the program, we may require you to acknowledge the grant by using the following:

“The Australian Government proudly supports this community-led partnership with funding provided under the National Justice Reinvestment Program.”

13 Probity

The Australian Government will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRPs.

13.1 Enquiries and feedback

Complaints about the grant process

Complaints about this grant process or the Community Grants Hub's service/s must be made in writing using the [online complaints form](#)²⁸ on the [Department of Social Services](#)²⁹ website, or by contacting the Department of Social Services complaints line.

Phone: 1800 634 035

Email: complaints@dss.gov.au

Mail: Complaints
GPO Box 9820
Canberra ACT 2601

Complaints about the Attorney-General's Department grant opportunity, selection process or grant decisions

The Attorney-General's Department's [Client Service Charter](#)³⁰ apply to complaints about the grant program, selection process or grant decisions.

This grant opportunity will be administered by the Community Grants Hub on behalf of the Attorney-General's Department. All complaints not specific to this grant opportunity or the Community Grants Hub's service/s (including the selection process and grant decisions) should be addressed to the Attorney-General's Department in writing to Justicereinvestment@ag.gov.au.

²⁷ <https://help.grants.gov.au/>

²⁸ <https://www.dss.gov.au/contact/feedback-compliments-complaints-and-enquiries/feedback-form>

²⁹ <https://www.dss.gov.au/contact/feedback-compliments-complaints-and-enquiries/complaints-page>

³⁰ <https://www.ag.gov.au/about-us/connect-us/client-service-charter>

Complaints to the Ombudsman

If you do not agree with the way the Community Grants Hub or Attorney-General's Department has handled your complaint, you may complain to the [Commonwealth Ombudsman](#)³¹. The Ombudsman will not usually look into a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with the Community Grants Hub or Attorney-General's Department.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (toll free): 1300 362 072

Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au

Website: www.ombudsman.gov.au

13.2 Conflicts of interest

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the grant opportunity or program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if the Attorney-General's Department and Community Grants Hub staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or you or any of your personnel has a:

- professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the grant selection process, such as an Australian Government officer or member of a Justice Reinvestment Assessment Panel
- relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently
- relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program/grant opportunity.

You will be asked to declare, as part of your application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interest or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If you later think there is an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform the Attorney-General's Department and the Community Grants Hub in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff will be handled as set out in the [Australian Public Service Code of Conduct \(section 13\(7\)\)](#)³² of the [Public Service Act 1999](#)³³. Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

We publish our conflict of interest policy on the [Community Grants Hub website](#)³⁴.

³¹ <https://www.ombudsman.gov.au/>

³² http://www8.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/cth/consol_act/psa1999152/s13.html

³³ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A00538/latest/versions>

³⁴ <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/conflict-intrest-policy>

13.3 Privacy

We treat your personal information according to the [Privacy Act 1988](#)³⁵ and the [Australian Privacy Principles](#)³⁶. This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- who we give your personal information to.

Your personal information can only be disclosed to someone else for the primary purpose for which it was collected, unless an exemption applies.

The Australian Government may also use and give out information about grant applicants and grant recipients under this grant opportunity in any other Australian Government business or function. This includes disclosing grant information on GrantConnect as required for reporting purposes and giving information to the Australian Taxation Office for compliance purposes.

We may share the information you give us with other Commonwealth entities for purposes including government administration, research or service delivery, according to Australian laws.

As part of your application, you declare your ability to comply with the Privacy Act and the Australian Privacy Principles and impose the same privacy obligations on officers, employees, agents and subcontractors that you engage to assist with the activity, in respect of personal information you collect, use, store, or disclose in connection with the activity. Accordingly, you must not do anything, which if done by the Attorney-General's Department would breach an Australian Privacy Principle as defined in the Privacy Act.

13.4 Confidential information

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to give out to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant application and/or agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where you are required by law, the Australian Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

We may at any time, require you to arrange for you; or your employees, agents or subcontractors to give a written undertaking relating to nondisclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

We will keep any information in connection with the grant agreement confidential to the extent that it meets all of the 3 conditions below.

1. You clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential.
2. The information is commercially sensitive.
3. Revealing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.

We will not be in breach of any confidentiality agreement if the information is disclosed to:

- Commonwealth employees and contractors to help us manage the program effectively

³⁵ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A03712/latest/text>

³⁶ <https://www.oaic.gov.au/privacy/australian-privacy-principles>

- employees and contractors of our department so we can research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities
- employees and contractors of other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery
- other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government agencies in program reports and consultations
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary
- a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

The grant agreement may also include any specific requirements about special categories of information collected, created or held under the grant agreement.

13.5 Freedom of information

All documents that the Australian Government has, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the [Freedom of Information Act 1982](#)³⁷ (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act gives people the ability to get information held by the Australian Government and its organisations. Under the FOI Act, people can ask for documents the Australian Government has. People may not be able to get these documents if these documents need to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons who the information relates to.

All FOI requests must be referred to the Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing.

By mail: Freedom of Information Team
 Government and Executive Services Branch
 Department of Social Services
 GPO Box 9820
 Canberra ACT 2601

By email: foi@dss.gov.au

³⁷ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A02562/latest/versions>

14 Glossary

Term	Definition
accountable authority	see subsection 12(2) of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (PGPA Act) ³⁸ .
administering entity	when an entity that is not responsible for the policy, is responsible for the administration of part or all of the grant administration processes.
assessment criteria	are the specified principles or standards, against which applications will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals.
collaboration agreement	a collaboration agreement seeks to outline the intentions and commitments of collaborators seeking to provide resources and support to a particular community-led justice reinvestment initiative or project. It is intended to complement other existing partnership agreements (for example, Commonwealth grant agreements). A collaboration agreement confirms the contributions of all partners, consistent with the partnership approach underpinning the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. It sets out how partners will work together in support of a shared local agenda, strategy and plan of action. While a collaboration agreement is not legally binding, this does not lessen the commitment to the agreement.
commencement date	the expected start date for the grant activity.
Commonwealth entity	a department of state, or a parliamentary department, or a listed entity or a body corporate established by a law of the Commonwealth. See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act.
Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles ³⁹ (CGRPs) ⁴⁰	establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.
Community	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community or communities.
Community Grants Hub	the area of the Department of Social Services that provides a shared-services arrangement to deliver grant administration services on behalf of the Australian Government for client agencies.
completion date	the expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by.
co-sponsoring entity	when 2 or more entities are responsible for the policy and the appropriation for outcomes associated with it.

³⁸ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2013A00123/latest/text>

³⁹ <https://www.finance.gov.au/government/commonwealth-grants/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-principles-2024>

⁴⁰ <https://www.finance.gov.au/government/commonwealth-grants/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-guidelines>

Term	Definition
date of effect	can be the date on which a grant agreement is signed or a specified starting date. Where there is no grant agreement, entities must publish information on individual grants as soon as practicable.
decision maker	the person who makes a decision to award a grant.
department	The Attorney-General's Department.
early-stage justice reinvestment site	<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are coming together to gather information and build support for community-led change to improve justice outcomes have an early understanding of justice challenges and other priority areas requiring change may have started developing a plan/strategy for action have established at least initial mechanisms through which community can lead and drive solutions (such as community-led advisory groups or similar) are exploring or have started to establish key stakeholder collaborations that will support community-led change (for example, with funders and other non-government organisations, state/territory government).
eligibility criteria	refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Assessment criteria apply in addition to eligibility criteria.
established justice reinvestment site	<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> have identified key challenges and priority areas for community-led change aimed at improving justice outcomes have developed and/or are already implementing a plan/strategy identifying project goals, activities and approaches to achieve this change are identifying or have identified how they will measure and evaluate progress (including outcomes) of this plan/strategy have established mechanisms through which they are leading and driving solutions, including mechanisms that support wider community participation in achieving project goals and outcomes have established key stakeholder collaborations to support achievement of goals and outcomes.
Funding Arrangement Manager	is the officer from the Community Grants Hub responsible for the ongoing management of the grantee and their compliance with the grant agreement.

Term	Definition
grant	<p>for the purposes of the CGRPs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> under which relevant money⁴¹ or other Consolidated Revenue Fund⁴² (CRF) money⁴³ is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.
grant activity/activities	refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake.
grant agreement	sets out the relationship between the parties to the agreement, and specifies the details of the grant.
grant opportunity	refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted, and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.
grant program	a 'program' carries its natural meaning and is intended to cover a potentially wide range of related activities aimed at achieving government policy outcomes. A grant program is a group of one or more grant opportunities under a single Attorney-General's Department Portfolio Budget Statement program.
GrantConnect ⁴⁴	is the Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRPs.
grantee	the individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant.
Indigenous Data Sovereignty	is the right of Indigenous peoples to govern the collection, ownership and application of data about Indigenous communities, peoples, lands, and resources.
Justice Reinvestment Assessment Panel	provides strategic oversight, advice and recommendations to the decision maker on assessed applications from the program specific, service provider composition and service location perspectives.
National Redress legislation	means the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018 ⁴⁵ .

⁴¹ Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

⁴² <https://www.finance.gov.au/about-us/glossary/pgpa/term-consolidated-revenue-fund-crf>

⁴³ Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

⁴⁴ <https://help.grants.gov.au/>

⁴⁵ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2018A00045/latest/text>

Term	Definition
place-based approach	This involves local level solutions to local issues being identified and developed by those connected to the same place or community. 'Place' in this context, might refer, for example, to Local Government Areas, suburbs in a town or city or townships. It might also refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander definitions of place, which could encompass a region or other geographical area across which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are culturally connected.
Portfolio Budget Statement (PBS) program	described within the entity's Portfolio Budget Statement ⁴⁶ , PBS programs each link to a single outcome and provide transparency for funding decisions. These high-level PBS programs often comprise a number of lower level, more publicly recognised programs, some of which will be grant programs. A PBS program may have more than one grant program associated with it, and each of these may have one or more grant opportunities.
selection criteria	comprise eligibility criteria and assessment criteria.
selection process	the method used to select potential grantees. This process involves the initial eligibility and compliance check by the Community Grants Hub, the quality assurance screening by officers from the Attorney-General's Department, and the assessment of applications by the Justice Reinvestment Assessment Panel against the eligibility criteria and/or the assessment criteria.
systems focus	this usually involves identifying and targeting a range of drivers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander contact with the justice system and incarceration, as identified at a community level. These drivers may sit within the criminal justice system or in other areas (in health or education), and be identified as impacting all age groups, including children and young people. Targeting these issues requires a holistic approach. They may also be targeted through a community-led push for specific reforms to government policy and practice in the relevant areas and/or for an increase in community-led decision-making and control more broadly.
value for money	<p>refers to 'value with relevant money' which is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations.</p> <p>When administering a grant opportunity, an official should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ quality of the project proposal and activities ▪ fit for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives ▪ absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government's outcomes being achieved ▪ potential grantee's relevant experience and performance history.

⁴⁶ <https://budget.gov.au/content/pbs/index.htm>

Appendix A - Assessment criteria rating scale

Fully meets the criterion	Partially meets the criterion	Does not meet the criterion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All sub-criteria have been addressed. • A good case has been made by the applicant through clear and convincing arguments that are supported by evidence. • The applicant has provided relevant information for all of the sub-criteria. • All the claims made are reasonable, generally convincing and well explained. • All the claims made are supported by evidence. • All the claims made and evidence provided generally link back to the grant activities and objectives/outcomes. • All the evidence provided is relevant. • Very limited areas of relevant weakness may have been identified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some or most of the sub-criteria have been addressed. • A satisfactory case has been made by the applicant through information that is generally relevant. While some information is ambiguous, overall a clear picture emerges. • The applicant has provided some or mostly relevant information. • Some or most of the claims made are reasonable and supported by some evidence. • Some or most of the evidence provided is relevant. • Some areas of relevant weakness have been identified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No real case has been made against the criterion or any of the sub-criteria. • No relevant information has been provided or the response field is blank. • No analysis has been provided or the sub-criteria are largely repeated. • A very poor case has been made with limited information supplied. • Any claims made may be inadequate, ambiguous or not clearly explained. • Critical areas of weakness have been identified.